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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ERDA-07 ACDA-10 OES-06 SAM-01

NRC-07 AID-05 /100 W
---------- 096562
O 120710Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7096
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
WWXRAU3410
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 8395

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, PK, US, FR
SUBJ: BHUTTO'S COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT

1. ALL AUG. 12 PAKISTANI NEWSPAPERS CARRY FRONT PAGE, DETAILED COVERAGE OF BHUTTO TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH COMMERCIAL RADIO STATION EUROPE NUMBER ONE. GIST OF ARTICLES IS THAT DESPITE USG ATTEMPTS TO DISSUADE PARTIES FROM CONSUMMATION OF SALE, PAKISTAN IS DETERMINED TO BUY A NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING PLANT FROM FRANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH A LONG-STANDING FRANCO-PAKISTANI CONTRACT. BHUTTO WAS CAREFUL TO STRESS IN THE INTERVIEW THAT HE REGARDS THESE USG ATTEMPTS -INCLUDING THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S COMMENTS DURING THEIR RECENT MEETING IN LAHORE --AS THE NORMAL PRESENTATION OF THE DIFFERING POINT OF VIEW OF A FRIENDLY POWER RATHER THAN AS AN ULTIMATUM. THE PAKISTANI
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ACCOUNTS WERE MODERATE ON U.S. POSITION: THEY STRESSED

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BOTH PAKISTAN'S DETERMINATION TO MAKE THE PURCHASE AND PAKISTAN'S FRIENDSHIP FOR THE U.S.

2. BHUTTO CONTINUALLY STRESSED THE CONSTRUCTION NATURE OF HIS RECENT TALKS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER: "I DO NOT CONSIDER THIS DISCUSSION AS AN ULTIMATUM. WE DID NOT TALK IN TERMS OF ULTIMATUMS. DR. KISSINGER TRIED TO CONVINCE ME. AND I DID THE SAME." HE REITERATED HIS INTENTION TO CONTINUE TALKING WITH AMERICANS "AS FRIENDS."

3. BHUTTO ALSO EMPHASIZED THE CONTRACTUAL NATURE OF THE AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE STATING "THIS IS AN AGREEMENT THAT WE WILL NOT CANCEL AND WILL NOT BREAK." "WE ARE ABIDING BY OUR ENGAGEMENTS TOWARD FRANCE. AND WE WILL NOT CHANGE OUR MINDS."

4. PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO CARRIED REPORTS OF STATEMENTS BY FRENCH OFFICIALS THAT THE FRENCH SALE AGREEMENT, WITH PAKISTAN'S ACCORD, MORE THAN CONFORMS WITH THE STRICTEST INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARD REQUIREMENTS. THE ARTICLES ALSO LIBERALLY QUOTED THE SECRETARY OF STATE AS INSISTING THAT THE USG MERELY HAS ATTEMPTED TO PRESENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF NEW US LAWS TO OUR ALLIES, RATHER THAN TO COERCE THEM.
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To: SECSTATE WASHDC
KABUL
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
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